

## Checklist for identifying non-compliant products

### Product Compliance

Non-compliance comes in many forms, from the deliberate launch into a marketplace of a cheaper, technically inferior product which does not meet the locally applicable standards, to intentional deception by exaggerating performance benefit claims.

The risks and consequences associated with non-compliant electrical products can be wide-reaching and include:

- Injury or death (possibly leading to legal action, fines or imprisonment.)
- Damage to property
- Loss of business (ranging from an individual customer to an entire business.)
- Damage to reputation (for selling or installing a product which has failed.)
- Commercial implications (the cost of replacing the failed product.)
- Inconvenience (due to lack of product performance or reliability.)

Installers must be aware that these products present significant risks to people and property and carry serious consequences for the distributor and installer of such products, notable that non-compliant products will not ensure protection against fire or electrocution. You should choose your electrical products with care!

### The Checklist

This checklist outlines simple measures to help you to safeguard against being deceived into buying non-compliant and/or counterfeit products.

#### General Quality indicators

- Imperfections in moulded case finish?
- Presence of poorly moulded excess material / jagged edges on the outer casing of mouldings?
- Visible corrosion of metal components (terminal clamps / screws)
- Is the product CE or UKCA marked? (Indicates conformity with relevant legislation.)
- Illegible, poorly aligned or smudged graphics, symbols or markings?

#### Other Factors to Consider

- Purchasing Channel – do you know and trust the person/organisation offering you this product?
- How does the weight of the product compare to similar products with which you are possibly more familiar? (A lightweight product could indicate the absence of critical components).
- Can your supplier provide you with a copy of a Type Test Certificate to prove compliance?
- Does the Type Test certificate come from a recognised laboratory / authority?

- Extreme care must be exercised if you are offered previously used electrical products as the service of these devices will be unknown.

If you have any concerns or suspicions about the authenticity and/or the claims being made in respect of a product you should ask your supplier for documentary evidence of compliance and check with relevant test authorities if necessary. These actions are important to safeguard your customers and your business.